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## EDITORIAL.

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It was five years ago that Professor James retired from the position of editor-in-chief of the *ANNALS* and thus relinquished his direct supervision of one of the activities of the Academy. At that time it was my agreeable duty to tell the readers of the *ANNALS* how much our organization had been indebted to the wisdom and foresight of our honored founder. We indulged the hope that the work which he had founded, and which for years he had fostered with devoted care and admirable skill would not suffer by passing in part, at least, into other hands. If the kindly words of the present editor-in-chief in the last issue of the *ANNALS* were as accurate as they were gracious, we may believe that this hope was not wholly vain.

At the last meeting of the board of directors of the Academy, Professor James requested that his name be not presented for the office of president.<sup>1</sup> A generous feeling that he should not continue to enjoy that honor when circumstances prevent him from participating in the work of the Academy prompted him to this step. In deference to Professor James' wishes the directors unanimously elected Professor Lindsay, who has for some time been the guiding spirit of the Academy, to the office of president.

<sup>1</sup> This letter, though addressed to the board, belongs, we feel, to the Academy at large and is here reproduced.

CHICAGO, January 3, 1901.

*To the Board of Directors of the American Academy of Political and Social Science:*

As the time is approaching for the annual business meeting of the Academy and the election of officers for the ensuing year, I beg permission to make the following suggestions.

For eleven years I have performed the duties of President<sup>1</sup> of the Academy. During the first seven years of that period, though the duties were extremely onerous, I performed them with great pleasure, and should have continued the work longer if my circumstances had permitted.

My removal to Chicago in 1896 prevented my giving as much time and attention to the affairs of the Academy as had been my custom up to the date mentioned, but my interest in its work and welfare has continued as keen from that date to this, and is not likely to suffer any diminution in the future.

I feel, however, that it lies in the interest of the Academy to have as its President a person who is able to give more time to the actual supervision and direction of its work than I shall be able to do from all that I can see, for some time to come. I would suggest, therefore, that you do not consider my name in connection with another term of office as President.

I need not say that my services are always at the disposal of the Academy for any purpose in which they can be of any use whatever. With an earnest desire for the ever-increasing prosperity of the Academy, and its work, I am,

Faithfully yours, (Signed) EDMUND J. JAMES.

So important an event as the formal relinquishment of the official honors which Professor James has so long held, should not pass without a tribute to the important services which he has rendered to the Academy. The editor of the *ANNALS* has courteously invited the writer to be the spokesman of the appreciation and esteem of the directors, and such an invitation could not be withstood. Associated in the work of the Academy with Professor James from its inception, no task could make me break the silence which my retirement should impose more promptly than the privilege of publicly expressing what the Academy owes to its honored founder.

In the course of time the group of men upon whom the first labors of the Academy fell some twelve years ago, Drs. James, Giddings, Devine, Robinson and the writer, has been dispersed, and others have taken their places. That the work continues so full of vitality and promise, is a lasting tribute to the wisdom of its founder and to the unremitting thought and guidance which he, longer than all the rest, has given to its activities. Wise in counsel, fertile in expedients, he carried the Academy through the trying days of its early life, and at the cost of personal inconvenience continued some time after his removal to Chicago, to direct its work. It has been peculiarly his own creation, and only those who in recent years have assumed the active conduct of its work, know how completely the spirit which rules in all its branches is that of Dr. James. That without his presence they have been able to carry on the life of the organization so successfully, is ample evidence of the skill with which Dr. James planned and builded.

When twelve years ago Dr. James broached his plans for an American academy of the political and social sciences there were few among his associates who shared his prophetic vision of what it might become. But we trusted our leader and were willing to work with him. So well had the plans been matured that the first six months of the work carried conviction that the project would be a success. Doubts were silenced, for the unrivaled energy of Dr. James brought immediate fruits.

Among the many lines of activities which were planned by Dr. James the most distinct results have been achieved in the meetings and publications of the Academy. The holding of scientific meetings began on March 21, 1890, and the last held was the Seventieth Session, on February 19, 1901. Much of the early success of these meetings was due to the dignity and address with which Professor James presided over them. With a word or suggestion he turned the discussion from barren to fruitful channels, while as directing spirit in the work of the Academy he secured for the meetings papers of more than ordinary

value. With the growth of the Academy in numbers and strength the program of the meetings was enlarged to include social features, which added to the attractiveness of the gatherings. Later the feature of annual meetings was added to the work of the Academy. These have been especially successful, and their fruits have been embodied in permanent form in volumes issued by the Academy. True to the principles laid down by Professor James, these results have been secured without unduly burdening the financial resources of the Academy, the cost of annual meetings being indeed defrayed by special funds.

With no less energy did Professor James devote himself to the publications of the Academy. After a brief experience as a quarterly, the *ANNALS* were soon issued six times in the year. It was his conception that the publications of the Academy should afford a place for all scientific discussion, whether it took the form of note, paper, or monograph. He gave, therefore, a peculiar care to the supplements and urged this feature of the Academy's work on all occasions. To his energy we owe the splendid series of supplements which form so conspicuous an ornament of the publications of the Academy. In the work of publication he enlisted the aid and assistance of scholars at home and abroad. Among the many who have contributed scholarly articles to the pages of the *ANNALS* it may seem invidious to make a personal mention, yet I cannot but feel that it is due to Professor James that the volumes of the *ANNALS* are so rich in the productions of such men as Professors Patten and Giddings. Nor does it seem amiss to call attention to the fact that Professor James was singularly stimulating and encouraging to younger men, who have since gained honorable places in the scientific world. Members of the Academy will recall with pleasure the fact that the *ANNALS* contained some of the earliest writings of such men as Drs. J. H. Robinson, E. T. Devine, L. S. Rowe, S. M. Lindsay and Emory R. Johnson, to mention only a few.

If some of the activities planned by Dr. James for the Academy, such as the building up of a library of political and social science, and the encouragement of special research, remain yet in abeyance, it is not because the thought was less valuable, but because the funds have hitherto been lacking. Yet, as Dr. James has already seen the fulfillment of a part of his projects, we earnestly hope that in the long life which we trust is yet before him, these cherished plans may also pass into realization. When this occurs the Academy will be ready to pass beyond the generous ideas of its founder into further fields of usefulness. But much remains yet to be done ere we can hope to surpass his bold conceptions. Nor do we doubt in the least that when this time comes he will be ready with new plans and be the guiding spirit in our future progress.

We should feel the loss most keenly had we any thought that in retiring from the presidency Dr. James was in any less degree with us in our work than before. We are confident that we can always count upon his sympathy and support. We render grateful thanks for all that he has done for the Academy in the past, and cherish the hope that what may be done by and for the Academy in the future may meet his approbation and embody his own wishes for our welfare.

ROLAND P. FALKNER.